

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE
GENERIC NAMES "ELAPHELLA" BEZZI, 1913 (CLASS INSECTA,
ORDER DIPTERA) AND "LOPHIOTHERIUM" GERVAIS, 1850
(CLASS MAMMALIA)**

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The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to validate the well-known generic name *Elaphella* Bezzi, 1913 (Class Insecta, Order Diptera) by suppressing the totally overlooked name *Diplocus* Blanchard, 1845. The facts of this case are set out below.

2. The genus with which the present application is concerned was first named in 1834 when Macquart published the name *Dicrania* for it (Macquart, 1834, Roret's *Suites à Buffon*, Dipt. 1 : 195). Macquart placed two nominal species in this genus, namely *Pangonia cervus* Wiedemann, 1828 (*Aussereurop. Zweifl. Insekt.* 1 : 94) and *Pangonia furcata* Wiedmann, 1828 (*ibid.* 1 : 99). Macquart did not designate a type species for this genus.

3. The name *Dicrania* Macquart, 1834, is invalid as being a junior homonym of *Dicrania* Lepeletier & Serville, 1828 (*Ency. meth., Ins.* 10(2) : 371) (Class Insecta, Order Coleoptera). On this account the name *Dicrania* Macquart was replaced in 1901 (*Trans. amer. ent. Soc.* 27 : 135) by Hunter who gave it the name *Dicranomyia*. Unfortunately, the name *Dicranomyia* Hunter is

invalid, being a junior homonym of *Dicranomyia* Stephens, 1829 (*Nom. Brit. Ins.* : 53). This genus was renamed twice in 1913 : first by Bezzi (*Soc. ent.* 28(13) : 56), who called it *Elaphella*, second, by Enderlein (*Zool. Anz.* 42 : 253), who called it *Allodicerania*. *Elaphella* was published as *nom. nov.* for *Dicranomyia* Hunter, *Allodicerania* as a *nom. nov.* for *Dicrania* Macquart. Fortunately, there is no difficulty in establishing the relative priority of these names, for the parts of the serials in which they were published are fully dated, the part of the *Soc. ent.* containing the name *Elaphella* bearing the date 5th July 1913, that of the *Zool. Anz.* containing the name *Allodicerania* bearing the date 18th July 1913.

4. In the forty-two years which have since elapsed this genus has been continuously known by the name *Elaphella*. Authors who have used this name include : Enderlein, 1925 (*Mitt. zool. Mus. Berlin* 11(2) : 298) ; Kroker, 1930 (*Zool. Anz.* 88 : 309) ; Borgmeier, 1933 (*Rev. Ent.* 3 : 292) ; Kroker, 1934 (*Rev. Ent.* 4 : 235) ; Bezzi, 1920 (*Ann. ent. Soc. Amer.* 13 : 408) ; Bequaert & Renjifo-Salcedo, 1946 (*Psyche* 53 : 54).

5. Unfortunately, the name *Elaphella* Bezzi is itself invalid, there being a much older but hitherto totally overlooked substitute name for *Dicrania* Macquart, to which attention was drawn by Neave in 1939 (*Nomencl. zool.* 2 : 108). This is the name *Diplocus* Blanchard, 1845 (*Hist. Ins.* 2 : 470). This name was published as a *nom. nov.* for *Dicrania* in a perfectly regular manner and its availability cannot be questioned. No reference to the name *Diplocus* can, however, be found in the whole of the tabanid literature since the time of its publication. It was overlooked in the following world catalogues : Kertész, 1900, *Catalogus Tabanidarum Orbis Terrarum Universi*, Budapest, 79 pp. ; Kertész, 1908, *Cat. Dipt. Hucusque descript.*, Vol. III, 367 pp. ; Surcouf, 1921, Wytzman's *Genera Insectorum*, Fasc. 175, Diptera Tabanidae, Bruxelles, 181 pp. ; Kroker, 1934, *Catalogo do Tabanidae*, etc., (*Revista entomologica* 2 : 222-276). In addition, the name *Diplocus* was missed in several private catalogues also, for example, in the personal annotated copies of Kertész from both Austen and Ricardo (British Museum (Natural History)) now in the hands of Oldroyd and Fairchild respectively, and in a very complete generic catalogue compiled by J. Bequaert (Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology). The name is not mentioned in the extensive generic revisions of Neotropical Tabanidae published by Adolpho Lutz from 1905 to 1937 in Brazil.

6. The species *Pangonia cervus* Wiedemann has been treated by all authors as representing the present genus, whatever the name applied to it. It was first formally made the type species in 1913 (*Zool. Anz.* 42 : 253) when Enderlein, not knowing of the existence of *Elaphella*, made it the type species of *Allodicerania*, thereby automatically making it the type species also of *Elaphella* Bezzi and of all the other substitute names for *Dicrania* Macquart.

7. The name *Elaphella cervus* (Wiedemann) has become thoroughly established through continuous usage and is familiar to all workers in this group, while the name *Diplocus cervus* (Wiedemann) has never been used for it and, if now introduced would be unfamiliar and confusing. The species concerned is a well-known insect in Surinam, Brazil, Peru and Colombia. It has been discussed by at least fourteen authors, in some cases in more than one publication. It is considered therefore that in the interest of nomenclatorial stability it is desirable that the Commission should validate the name *Elaphella* Bezzi and that, having done so, it should place that name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. The objectively invalid names discussed in the present paper should at the same time be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names*. To these should be added the name *Stichocera* Hine, 1920 (*Ohio J. Sci.* 20 : 185), the most recent of the names published as substitutes for *Dicranomyia* Hunter.

8. In considering the proposal that the generic name *Diplocus* Blanchard, 1845, should be suppressed in favour of the name *Elaphella* Bezzi, 1913, the Commission will no doubt wish to consider also the generic name *Diplocus* Pictet, 1853 (*Traité Paléont.* (ed. 2) 1 : 340), the status of which might be affected by the action recommended. The name *Diplocus* Pictet applies to a fossil mammal and on the action to be taken as regards this name the applicants have consulted Dr. A. Tindell Hopwood (*British Museum (Natural History)*) who has both furnished the information given below in regard to the name *Diplocus* Pictet and in addition has advised how the proposals in regard to the Diptera name *Diplocus* Blanchard may be harmonised with the mammal side of the present case.

9. The following is the statement kindly furnished by Dr. Hopwood :—

- (a) The type species of *Diplocus* Pictet is the nominal species *Diplocus gervaisii* Pictet, 1853 (: 340). The type specimen of this species is the type specimen also of *Lophiotherium cervulum* Gervais, 1850 (*Zool. Paléont. franc.* (ed. 1) : Explic., pl. 11, figs. 10, 10a, 11, 12). Thus, the specific names *gervaisii* Pictet and *cervulum* Gervais are objective synonyms of one another. This species was referred to again by Gervais in 1859 in the Second Edition of the *Zool. Paléont. franc.* (: 114) and on this occasion Gervais cited as a synonym *Diplocus gervaisii* Pictet, which, however, he attributed to "Aymard in Pictet". In both editions of the above work Gervais treated the specimen illustrated on figs. 10 and 10a on his plate 11 as the principal specimen of his nominal species *Lophiotherium cervulum* of 1850. That specimen is accordingly here selected as the lectotype of that species. Similarly, the generic name *Diplocus* Pictet and *Lophiotherium* Gervais (which was described jointly with its type species, *Lophiotherium cervulum*) are objective synonyms of one another. (It should be noted that Sherborn and later Neave were in error in attributing the name *Lophiotherium* Gervais to 1849 (*C. R. Acad. Sci.*, Paris 29 : 381, 573), for as there published this generic name was a *nomen nudum*.

- (b) The name *Lophiotherium* Gervais, 1850, is however, a junior homonym of *Lophiotherium* Fischer de Waldheim, 1829 (*Nouv. Mém. Soc. imp. Nat. Moscou* 1 : 284). This name was given by Fischer to a genus caelebs which Sherborn (1927, *Index Anim.*, Pars secund. : 3669) identified with *Lophiodon* Cuvier (G.), [1821-1822] (*Mém. Acad. roy. Sci.*, Paris 5 (Hist. Ac.) : 161).
- (c) Fischer's vagaries seem to have been forgotten and the name *Lophiotherium* Fischer has disappeared from the literature. On the other hand, the name *Lophiotherium* Gervais, 1850, is in universal use and it would be most undesirable that this arrangement should be disturbed on technical nomenclatorial grounds. It is accordingly requested that, when the Commission suppresses the name *Diplocus* Blanchard, 1845, in the interests of the name *Elaphella* Bezzi, 1913, in the Order Diptera, it should (a) suppress also the long-forgotten name *Lophiotherium* Fischer de Waldheim, 1829, for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy and (b) limit the suppression of the name *Diplocus* Blanchard to suppression for the purposes of the Law of Priority, thereby securing that the name *Diplocus* Pictet, 1853, remains invalid as a junior homonym of *Diplocus* Blanchard, 1845.

10. No family-group name problems arise in connection with either part of the present application, for the genus *Elaphella* Bezzi in Diptera is currently placed in the family TABANIDAE. As regards *Lophiotherium* Gervais, Dr. Hopwood has informed us that this genus has never been taken as the type genus of a family-group taxon. It is currently placed in the family PALEOTHERIIDAE of the Order Perissodactyla. This family consists of a rather aberrant group of mammals sharing some characters with primitive horses and others with primitive tapirs. The genus died out at the end of the Eocene, and the family in the Lower Oligocene.

11. For the reasons set forth in the present application the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers :—

- (a) to suppress the generic name *Diplocus* Blanchard, 1845 (Class Insecta, Order Diptera) for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;
- (b) to suppress the generic name *Lophiotherium* Fischer de Waldheim, 1829 (Class Mammalia) for the purposes both of the Law of Priority and of the Law of Homonymy ;

(2) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Elaphella* Bezzi, 1913, as validated under the Plenary Powers under (1)(a) above (gender : feminine) (type species, under Rule (f) in Article 30 by designation by Enderlein (1913) as the

type species of the objectively identical nominal genus *Allodictya* Enderlein, 1913 : *Pangonia cervus* Wiedemann, 1828) (Class Insecta, Order Diptera) ;

- (b) *Lophiotherium* Gervais, 1850, as validated under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above (gender : neuter) (type species, by monotypy : *Lophiotherium cervulum* Gervais, 1850, as defined by the lectotype selected by Hopwood in paragraph 9(a) of the present application) (Class Mammalia) ;

(3) to place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *cervus* Wiedemann, 1828, as published in the combination *Pangonia cervus* (specific name of type species of *Elaphella* Bezzi, 1913) ;
(b) *cervulum* Gervais, 1850, as published in the combination *Lophiotherium cervulum* and as defined by the lectotype specified in (2)(b) above (specific name of type species of *Lophiotherium* Gervais, 1850) ;

(4) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

- (a) *Allodictya* Enderlein, 1913 (a junior objective synonym of *Elaphella* Bezzi, 1913) ;
(b) *Dicrania* Macquart, 1834 (a junior homonym of *Dicrania* Lepeletier & Serville, 1828) ;
(c) *Dicranomyia* Hunter, 1901 (a junior homonym of *Dicranomyia* Stephens, 1829) ;
(d) *Diplocus* Blanchard, 1845, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1)(a) above ;
(e) *Stichocera* Hine, 1920 (a junior objective synonym of *Elaphella* Bezzi, 1913) ;
(f) *Lophiotherium* Fischer de Waldheim, 1829, as suppressed under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above ;
(g) *Lophiotherium* Gervais, 1849 (a *nomen nudum*) ;
(h) *Diplocus* Pictet, 1853 (a junior homonym of *Diplocus* Blanchard, 1845, and a junior objective synonym of *Lophiotherium* Gervais, 1850) ;

(5) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* :—*gervaisii* Pictet, 1853, as published in the combination *Diplocus gervaisii* (a junior objective synonym of *cervulum* Gervais, 1850, as published in the combination *Lophiotherium cervulum*).